

New-York Daily Tribune

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1866.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

Terms of the Tribune.
DAILY TRIBUNE.
 Mail subscribers, \$10.00
 1 copy, 1 year—311 numbers.
SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE.
 1 copy, 1 year—104 numbers. \$4.00
 2 copies, do. 7.00
 5 copies, or over, for each copy. 3.00
WEEKLY TRIBUNE.
 1 copy, 1 year—52 numbers. \$2.00
TERMS OF ADVERTISING IN THE TRIBUNE.
 DAILY TRIBUNE. Ordinary advertisements, classified under their proper heads, 15 cents per line, each insertion.
 WEEKLY TRIBUNE. \$1 per line, each insertion; on fifth page, \$1.50 per line.
 SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE. 25 cents per line, each insertion.
 THE TRIBUNE, New-York.

To Advertisers.
 We will thank our advertising customers to hand in their advertisements as early as possible. If received after 5 o'clock they cannot be classified under their proper heads.

To Correspondents.
 No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatever intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a warranty for his good faith. All business letters for this office should be addressed to "The Tribune," New-York.
 We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Tribune in London.
 STEVEN BROTHERS, (American Agents for Editors, 11, Strand, London, W. C.), are Agents for the sale of THE TRIBUNE. They will also receive Subscriptions and Advertisements.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The steamship Cuba, from Liverpool March 24, via Queenstown March 25, arrived here yesterday, bringing two days later news from Europe.

Mr. Gladstone, in the House of Commons, announced that the Government regarded Lord Grosvenor's amendment to the reform bill as one implying want of confidence in the Cabinet. The vote on this amendment will, therefore, be decisive.

All the capital required by the new Anglo-American Telegraph Company has been subscribed. The new cable is said to be a great improvement upon that of last year.

James Stephens, the Head Center, has been in Paris the guest of John Mitchell, and was soon to leave for New-York.

Louis Napoleon, on receiving the address from the Corps Legislatif, made a speech, in which he appealed to his Deputies not to ask for what is not given to them, and pointed to his long and wearied labors for the State. It is announced that England, France and Russia would offer their mediation to Austria and Prussia.

GENERAL NEWS.

The grand Bal d'Opera occurred last night at the Academy of Music, and was pronounced a perfect success in every particular. The decorations, (which are to remain several days,) the music, the dresses, and all, were of an order not to be surpassed in this city or elsewhere.

The good people of Toronto, Canada, are again violently agitated over the news from this city, that an expedition of Fenians had gone to Bermuda. It is believed to be a feat, and that Quebec is the real point of destination.

James H. Barker, John Anderson and John H. Dervin have been appointed by Judge Barnard to be Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment in the matter of widening Ann-st. The subject was again before the Common Council yesterday.

The Board of Health met yesterday, and had an interview with the dealers in foreign grain. Fifteen hundred shad on board a schooner in North River was reported to have been seized and removed to the official dock.

Additional dispatches from the Union-square Fenian authorities announce the arrival of James Stephens in France, and state that he will soon embark for America.

Heavy frauds on the Government have been discovered at Nashville in the case of certain horse and mule operations. It is reported there is \$2,000,000 involved.

Four cartmen, employed by the street-cleaning contractors, were arrested yesterday for dumping dirt at the foot of Gansevoort-st., instead of in the barges as directed by the Board of Health.

Our naval reporter supplies an interesting account of the service performed during the past season by the revenue-cutter Cayahoga.

Colchester, the spiritualist, has been arrested in Louisville, on charges similar to those which were brought against him at Rochester, N. Y.

The sum of \$12,000 was stolen from the office of the Montank Insurance Company at Brooklyn last Wednesday night.

The Meteor case was again before the United States District Court, yesterday, and will again proceed to-day.

A boiler explosion at Cincinnati yesterday killed two men and did \$15,000 worth of damage.

Gold closed yesterday at 127½. Government Stocks are lower, and not in demand at quotations. State Stocks and Railway Mortgages are inactive. Bank Stocks are firm. The share market is unsettled, but was upon the whole steady under the movements of Michigan Southern.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

APRIL 5.—Mr. Sumner reported an amended resolution, appropriating \$131,403 for expenses of the Paris Exposition. Mr. Sherman introduced a bill to incorporate the National Telegraph Company, with a capital of \$10,000,000, which was referred to a Select Committee of Five. George F. Edmunds was sworn in as Senator from Vermont. The bill to provide arms for Dakota was passed. The joint resolution respecting bounties to colored soldiers was amended and passed. The Civil Rights veto was taken up, and Mr. Johnson spoke at length against the bill, and was followed by Mr. Cowan. A motion to adjourn was carried by 34 to 12.

HOUSE.

A bill was introduced to aid a railroad and telegraph from Salt Lake City to the Great Colorado River. Various memorials were reported on and referred. The Senate bill to grant a right of way through Washington Territory to the Cascade Railroad Company was amended and passed. A bill was passed constraining section four of the Army Appropriation bill of March 3, 1865, so as to allow three months' pay to certain officers. A report from the Conference Committee on the Deficiency bill was agreed to. Mr. Wilson asked leave to introduce a resolution looking to the trial of Jeff. Davis and other traitors, but objection was made. The Dodge-Brooks case was taken up and debated at length, and postponed till to-day. Various Senate bills were read and referred. A resolution was unanimously adopted instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill to protect soldiers from being cheated by claim agents. The Senate Amendments to the Naval Appropriation bill were considered by the House. (In several of them the House non-concurred, and appointed a Committee of Conference.) Adjourned.

LEGISLATION.

SENATE.

APRIL 5.—Bills were passed incorporating the

National Indemnity Company, the Brooklyn Trust Company and the Union Harmonic Society of Westchester County. The bill to abolish the contract system for repairing the canals and to return to the Superintendent system was lost by a vote of 10 yeas to 14 nays.

ASSEMBLY.

Bills were passed for the better protection of sick and indigent passengers arriving at the Port of New-York; to authorize the New-York Common Council to raise money by tax; to incorporate the National Savings Bank of New-York; to incorporate the New-York Mercantile Library Association.

The Brooks-Dodge case was again debated yesterday in the House and went over till to-day, when it is expected a vote will be taken.

The Foreign News and letters from several of our European correspondents will be found in a supplementary sheet, as well as a variety of local intelligence.

Two or three heavy failures are announced here and in other cities. They are not the last we shall hear of between now and mid-Summer. Prudent men are beginning to "stand from under."

The Hon. James S. Pike, who has, for several years past, so ably and satisfactorily filled the position of American Minister at the Hague, has sent in his resignation, to take effect on the 1st of June. The influence exercised there by Mr. Pike during the continuance of the war, and his able representation of the real questions at issue, did much to secure for the Union cause the sympathy both of the people and the Government to which he was accredited.

Both branches of the New-Jersey Legislature have agreed to adjourn to-day, sine die, at noon. An attempt to go into joint session yesterday again failed by the usual vote, Mr. Scovel voting with the Democrats. The expectation seems to be that there will be no change in the situation to-day, Mr. Scovel choosing that the vacancy in the United States Senate shall not be filled. Either the ten Republican Senators must yield to him, or he to them, to effect any other result.

No vote was reached yesterday on the Civil Rights Veto. Mr. Johnson spoke at length in support of the Veto. When he had concluded, Mr. Trumbull, who has the bill in charge, desired a vote, but the opposition gave notice they should filibuster in order to prevent a vote till to-day—Messrs. Dixon and Wright, who are expected to vote against the bill, being absent. After considerable discussion, the majority yielded, and against the energetic protest of Senator Wade, consented to an adjournment. It was a weak thing to do, and may prove fatal to the bill.

The House yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill to protect soldiers and sailors from being cheated by claim agents. Many of these agents, says the resolution, refuse to pay over moneys collected. Mr. Farnsworth stated that claim agents were sending circulars all over the country, promising to the soldiers fabulous sums in bounties and land warrants. He desired to give notice that these agents are "a set of infernal rascals and cheats." The speaker mentioned that his name had been used by one George E. Lemon, after he had refused to allow it.

No doubt there is plenty of rascality, but we beg members of Congress to observe that what stimulated these scamps is the expectation of the passage of a law "equalizing bounties." Such a law will put a great deal of money into the pockets of these agents, and very little into the pockets of the soldiers. Why pass it?

After years of war—during which the negro fought like a man—he was sent home, without a dollar of bounty, whenever his muster-roll failed to state that he was free before a certain date. Time and again THE TRIBUNE tried to have this unjust decision reversed. The Attorney-General did so, but the Secretary of War decided that the wrong should continue. The negroes were mustered out. Their rolls were notoriously imperfect. Not one in a hundred received any bounty. Shrewd claim-agents bought their papers for a song, and now, to benefit these speculators, to put millions of dollars in their pocket—not a penny going to the negro—a resolution is offered "paying the negroes their bounties." This is a great country, but when it takes a notion it can now and then do a very mean thing.

The field upon which the great battle on the Reform Bill will be fought in the House of Commons, has been selected. The Tories have not deemed it safe to move the rejection of the Government bill, but they have rallied around the following amendment, offered by one of the renegades from the Liberal party, Lord Grosvenor:

"That this House, while ready to consider, with a view to its settlement, the question of Parliamentary Reform, is of opinion that it is inexpedient to discuss a bill for the reduction of the franchise in England and Wales, until the House has before it the entire scheme contemplated by the Government for the amendment of the representation of the people."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the name of the Government, has announced in the House of Commons that the Government regards the amendment offered by Lord Grosvenor as one implying want of confidence.

The vote on this amendment will, therefore, be decisive of what is likely to be the most prominent question of the first session of the new Parliament.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania has passed an act disfranchising (in accordance with an act of Congress) all who deserted from the Military or Naval service of the Union during the late Civil War. Inspectors of Election who receive such votes are to be punished as for a misdemeanor.—The first objection to such acts is that they never are or can be enforced. Those who jumped bounties will easily find a way to vote, in spite of your law. (If they would but be satisfied with voting once!) We would not dissuade them from passing laws so just; but all American experience points to the conclusion that he who can dodge the Provost-Marshal

and get safely away, will vote; so that disfranchisements on our side are coolly evaded or defied.

MR. T. STEVENS—THE TIMES.

The N. Y. Times—whose editor has collided, ere now, with Thaddeus Stevens in debate, not very much to said editor's advantage—thus speaks of him:

"The unfriendliness of Mr. Thaddeus Stevens for the position he occupies in Congress, the hindrance he imposes upon the work of peace and reconstruction, and the discredit brought upon the Union party by his tone and tactics, are points upon which the intelligence and conservatism of the country have long been agreed. . . . The real misfortune is experienced, not by the Radicals, but by the Union party, which for the time suffers from the power exercised by Mr. Stevens in the House. The party as a whole is held accountable for the sins of its Radical members; its usefulness is lessened, its influence as a peacemaker in the South impaired, and its hold upon the respect and confidence of the North weakened, by each succeeding development of the policy which is exposed and resisted by the President." &c.

—These are but specimens of a column of covert abuse of the great majority in Congress whereof the whole basis and spirit are intensely unjust. Mr. Stevens in the House, like Mr. Sumner in the Senate, is followed no further than his views are identical with those cherished originally and independently by the great body of his associates. Each of them has been repeatedly voted down on most important propositions; as he doubtless will be again and again. Mr. Stevens does not lead the House, nor Mr. Sumner the Senate, to do anything which it was not antecedently inclined to do. In a body containing such men as Bingham, Spaulding and Shellabarger of Ohio, Conkling and Hulburd of New-York, Wentworth and Farnsworth of Illinois, Colfax and Julian of Indiana, Morrill of Vermont, Jenckes of Rhode Island, &c., &c., there can be no such leadership as *The Times* asserts, and there is none.

Mr. Stevens—though an able, earnest statesman, of ripe experience and positive convictions—is too contemptuous of opposing views and too unconciliating in manner, to exert any such influence as *The Times* accords him. There are few men on his side of the House whom that House is less reluctant to vote down when he is wrong than that same Thaddeus Stevens. His strength in the House grows out of the fact that he is generally right, and that, whenever he errs, he errs through devotion to Justice and Equal Rights. Of all men living, the Editor of *The Times* can least afford to misapprehend this truth.

USURPATION THREATENED.

The unchanged, vindictive Rebel who serves *The Daily News* in Washington, telegraphs on the 4th as follows:

"The Peace Proclamation of the President will be immediately followed by other action on his part. It will be observed that the legal effect of the proclamation is to place the Southern States in the same attitude precisely toward the Federal Government that they occupied before the war, and entitled to the same rights that they heretofore enjoyed. Mr. Johnson is determined to follow up this principle to its legitimate conclusion, and to see to it that the Southern States are no longer deprived of their rights by a factious majority in Congress."

The Peace Proclamation of the President was an act entirely within the scope of his powers and duties. However wise or unwise, timely or untimely, it is the President's prerogative to determine when such a Proclamation should issue; and we should very deeply regret any attempt by Congress to interfere with it. The President is responsible only to the People for the exercise of his official discretion.

But the rights of Congress in the premises are as important, well defined and unquestionable, as those of the President; and neither must ignore or usurp those of the other. Over and again has the President officially set forth the incontestable truth that Congress must prescribe the conditions whereon the States lately in revolt shall be restored to all the rights and privileges they so rashly, culpably repudiated. Those who would now urge the President to disregard and defy his own virtual pledges on this point are neither his friends nor friends of the country.

INSULTING THE PEOPLE.

The World excuses the late Copperhead defeat in Connecticut by saying that:

"We ran a civilian against a soldier, we had our trump card (President Johnson's intimation of his wishes) but little more than a week. . . . The garbled and lying account of President Johnson's conversation with the Republicans who visited him in Hawley's interest, was agreed to by a large and few of the rural voters had an opportunity to see the authentic contradiction, and learn the President's true wishes."

—The first sentence above quoted is very unjust to Mr. English, who was the very strongest man in his party, and ran decidedly ahead of its vote, as the returns will show. No other adherent of the Democratic organization could have come so near an election by at least 1,000 votes. While every man who denounced his vote last year for the Constitutional Amendment was constrained to support him, he received many votes because of that independent, manly, beneficent defiance of party shackles. Had we lived in Connecticut, and had no important issue depended on the result, we should have been strongly inclined to his support.

But *The World's* acquaintance with the people of Connecticut is mainly with the *habitués* of her city and village billiard saloons and grogeries, not with her substantial farmers and artisans. These are very anxious that the President's action shall conform to their ideas of right and public policy; they have no notion whatever of being guided in voting by his "true wishes." They would as soon think of asking him to direct them to the true church. Mr. Johnson's "intimation" was a "trump card" with a few poor, shivery-shakey office-holders, whose souls are in the bottom of their boots, and with nobody else. *The World* owes an apology to the substantial yeomanry it has so grossly calumniated.

The N. Y. Times recently said:

"The country will not forget that the critical period through which we are passing is the result, not of the President's caprice, obstinacy, or ambition, but of the disposition of the Radicals to force through disunion legislation."

Now mark how plain a tale will put this speaker down. Senator Trumbull states in his speech the following points:

I. That the Freedmen's Bureau bill was inspired by the annual message of the President to Congress.

II. That the bill was submitted to the President before it was introduced into the Senate, and also while pending in the House. The President, says that Senator "never indicated

to me, nor, so far as I know, to any of its friends, the least objection to any of the provisions of the bill till after its passage."

—The truth is, the position of the President is that of the twelfth jurymen, who found eleven jurors against him, and denounced their "caprice, obstinacy and ambition." If this same twelfth jurymen only knew his mind for a month at a time there might be some chance of an agreement; but it seems, from Senator Trumbull, that his opinions are very uncertain.

THE LOGIC OF THE PRESIDENT'S VETO.

The constant assumption of the President's organs that no attempt has been or will be made to refute the logic of his vetoes is a striking example of the dishonest method of argument which some journalists adopt. The veto of the Freedmen's Bureau bill was publicly discussed, and ably refuted, in the precise place contemplated by the Constitution for such discussions. The speech of Senator Trumbull was, however, utterly ignored by the "Conservative" press; and, instead of replying to it, these judicious editors assert, in substance, that no such speech was ever made. The unfortunate death of Senator Foot, occurring when it did, inevitably postponed Mr. Trumbull's review of the veto of the Civil Rights bill; and meanwhile this enforced silence was claimed as an admission that the veto is unanswerable.

The veto of the Civil Rights bill is founded upon arguments so shallow, that they can be answered in a very few words. The objections on the score of policy merely are hardly worth discussing at all. If there is any Republican who is opposed to granting citizenship to the colored race, we leave him to argue the question with the editor of *The Times*, who introduced a bill for that purpose into Congress, at an early period of the session, and enthusiastically urged it in his weathercock columns. The constitutional objections are all that we care to notice.

The objection to any interference by Congress to secure equal civil rights to the negro is sufficiently answered by the Message itself, which expressly declares the President's willingness to cooperate with Congress in securing to him these rights. How can it be unconstitutional to protect him in a part of these rights, as the vetoed bill does, when the President offers (whether sincerely or not) to protect him in all? But, apart from this, it is obvious that a man deprived of civil rights is substantially a slave running loose, who may be appropriated, like a wild horse, by the first man having rights, who may seize him. Liberty without the right to enforce it by suit or testimony, is a hideous mockery of that sacred name. And if Congress cannot secure to the negro the simple rights guaranteed to him by this bill, it cannot in any way enforce the constitutional prohibition of Slavery. A law against murder, which should be construed as excepting throat-cutting, would be as effective as an interpretation of the great amendment which should authorize Congress to prohibit Slavery, but deny to it the power to secure civil rights to the enslaved.

The objection to the section giving to the United States Courts jurisdiction over cases arising under the bill, is fully met by the clause in the Federal Constitution which declares that the judicial power of the United States shall extend to all cases arising under the laws of the United States.

The objection that the bill makes it a penal offense for Legislatures to make or judges to administer laws inconsistent therewith, is wholly without foundation. The penal clauses of the bill are so framed as to apply only to executive officers, such as marshals, sheriffs and jailers. The bill, as originally proposed in the Senate, was thought to be open to misconception upon this point, and it was amended for the very purpose of making it clear. We shall not enter into a full argument upon this subject, but refer our readers to the speech of Mr. Trumbull for its further elucidation.

The result of our examination has been to satisfy us of the utterly frivolous character of the President's objections to the bill; nor do we believe that any respectable lawyer, not a bigoted devotee of Slavery, will venture to argue in its favor.

LOUIS NAPOLEON.

The reply of Louis Napoleon to the Address from the Corps Legislatif, which will be found in another column, betrays some anxiety as to the growing power of the Opposition. For the first time since the establishment of the Empire, has a portion of the representatives, who were elected as the official candidates of the Government, banded together and opposed the Government in the name of Liberty, demanding internal reforms, and, in particular, liberty of the press. Nearly the whole speech of the Emperor is a plea with this incipient "Third Party," and, as it were, an appeal to his adherents not to waver in their unconditional devotion to the Government. He also, the Emperor insists, desires liberty, but only such a one as shall not become an arm to undermine and overthrow the Government. He refers to the development and growth of France during the fifteen years of his reign as an assurance that her high destiny will be accomplished.

All this has been said so often by the Emperor and the official expounders of his policy that it has lost the charm of novelty. It has, at all events, not prevented more than forty members of the present Corps Legislatif from proposing an amendment to the Address, demanding liberty of the press, and from adhering to their amendment, although it was strongly opposed by the Government. And there are many indications that a considerable portion of the Imperial party among the people stands behind the dissidents.

We doubt not that by means of the very efficient political machinery which is at his control, the Emperor will, also, in future, be able to secure a majority in the Corps Legislatif; but Louis Philippe's fate is a warning that even a reign of long and undisturbed peace may in France come very suddenly to an end, while more recently the fate of Prince Couns of the Danubian principalities shows that governments by artificial means may secure a

large and almost unanimous popular vote, and yet fall victims to a one-hour's palace revolution.

THE CONNECTICUT "REACTION."

The Copperhead papers are making great boasts of what their allies in Connecticut could or would do, if the election were to be held over again to-day. They claim that a great reaction has been going on in that State, and that they only wanted a few more days to canvass, in order to secure success.

The best commentary upon these boasts may be found in the result of a second election which has just taken place in Middletown. On Monday the vote stood 910 for Hawley and 935 for English; but only one Representative having been chosen, a second election has just been held, at which the Union candidate has been elected over the other Representative (the town being entitled to two) by 74 majority.

A similar gain throughout the State would give a Union majority of 5,000; and there can be little doubt that if an election should be held in the State to-day, that would be about the result.

THE PROPOSED CITY TAX LEVY.

THE ITEM OF SALARIES.

It is surprising to see how many persons are in the employ of the City Government. Each department, each bureau, each office, is considered by our City Fathers to be a Hospital or Poor House, in which the favorites of corrupt politicians are placed and supported at the public expense. These recipients of the public bounty do nothing, and get well paid for it. It is undoubtedly a "good thing" for the poor fellows, who would not be worth a farthing to anybody or any honorable calling, to be allowed the privilege of drawing, monthly, large salaries from the City Treasury for doing nothing, and to dress well and live well without any exertion, mental or physical. But for persons who, through misfortune or incapacity, are unable to provide support for themselves, the doors of the County Poor House or Work House are open; where if they are strong and healthy they can be made to work at something, even if only to pick oakum. The chief occupation of many of the clerks in the City Government seems to be to stand on Broadway, got up by barbers and tailors in the finest style, to sport massive gold watch-chains, and to stare impudently at all the women who may chance to pass them. Many of these gorgeously arrayed gentlemen are on the pay-rolls as day laborers on the wharves and streets.

We are led to make these remarks after looking over the analysis of the Controller's proposed tax levy, made by the Citizens' Association.

In the Board of Aldermen, there are about 16 Clerks and Assistants (under various names), for whom the Controller asks the sum of about \$26,000 for 1866. What are the duties of these officials no one knows. The truth is, there is no work for the great majority of them, and it is a crying shame if the Legislature does not intervene, and by express enactment lop off these individuals who are feasting and fattening upon the public. We recommend that at least 9 of the 16 be dispensed with by the Legislature.

In the Board of Councilmen, there are about 12 Clerks and Assistants, for whom the Controller asks about \$17,000. On entering the Councilmanic Chamber, during a session of the Board, one is immediately struck by some six jolly chaps who sit directly under the President's desk, whose only occupation seems to be to pass resolutions from one to another. We cannot see that there is anything for them to do; but this we know, that the people pay dearly enough for their support. Will not the Legislature make the same disposition of them as is recommended to be made of the idle fellows in the Board of Aldermen? We hope so.

*This is in addition to an equal amount paid clerks to committees.

For salaries in the Department of Finance, the Controller asks \$153,765.

We recommend to the Legislature that this be cut down to at most \$85,000, and we second the recommendation of the Citizens' Association to expressly abolish the positions, in the Controller's Office, of Third Assistant-Book-keeper, Second Assistant-Auditor and four Messengers, the positions of Deputy Collectors and Messengers of Bureau of City Revenue; the positions of Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Clerks, and Messenger of Bureau of Arrears, the positions of Second Assistant-Auditor, Third General Clerk, General Clerk and Messenger of the Auditing Bureau, and the Register of Licenses. The salaries would thus be decreased to about \$85,000; which is much more than sufficient to pay capable Clerks for attending to five times the amount of business attended to in the Controller's Office.

For salaries in the Street Department, the Controller asks \$137,180. It would be well if this were reduced to about \$50,500. We also recommend that the following positions in the Street Department be abolished: the positions of Deputy Contract Clerk, Second Book-keeper; Third, Fourth and Fifth General Clerks to Street Commissioner; First and Second Assistant Messengers; one Inspector of Incumbrances on Wharves, and one Inspector of Incumbrances on Streets in the Street Commissioner's office; the positions of Second, Third and Fourth Clerks to Superintendent and Inspector of Sidewalks in Bureau of Street Improvements; the positions of Clerk to Superintendent and Foreman in Bureau of Wharves; the position of Clerk to Superintendent in Bureau of Roads; the positions of Clerk to Superintendent, and ten Keepers of Parks in Bureau of Lands and Places; the positions of Inspector of Oil and six Inspectors of Lamps in Bureau of Lamps and Gas; the positions of Second Clerk to Superintendent, and two Inspectors of Small Repairs in Bureau of Repairs and Supplies; and that the Bureau of Deputy Superintendent of Repairs and Supplies be abolished. We have it on good authority that twelve and eight merchants' clerks respectively, at salaries of from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year, could attend to all the duties of the Finance and Street Departments of the City of New-York.

While on this matter, we must say that it appears impossible to us that the Street Com-

missioner can be earning his salary of \$7,500 per year, when he spends fully one-quarter of his time in Albany as a Member of the Senate, and is understood to be a candidate for the vacancy in the Board of Supervisors occasioned by Supervisor Purdy's death.

Will not the Legislature do something to relieve the City from the swarms of office-holders that infest it?

A Washington journal announces that a *habes corpus* is to be sued out in favor of Jefferson Davis, and calls it "a startling illustration of the results to which the President's policy, if persisted in and allowed to proceed unchecked, will inevitably lead us." Why not? If a man is in jail he ought to be tried and sentenced, or released. And as the negro comedians would say, Jeff. Davis is "no better man than any other man."

THE OPERA BALL LAST NIGHT.

Masks and Masqueraders at the Academy of Music—Nast's Clever Caricatures of Living Celebrities—The Last and Most Successful Affair of the Season.

For those good Americans who are not yet dead, and may not in the flesh visit Paris, Paris comes to New-York. In fashions, in customs, in bombas, in architecture, in books, in language, that gay capital divides itself into delightful fractions, by no means vulgar, and when we add them we find their sum total almost equal the parent unit.

We have long had the Opera, which, though Italian in name, is French by virtue of transplantation, and which we brought from Paris. We have even had the French Theatre—the most charming of resorts—but it had not entered the heart of Gotham to conceive the excitement reserved for it by the indomitable Impresario of the Academy.

In the inner circles, indeed, wherein his nod is potent, it was long ago whispered that the grand season would close with a grand ball. But then Lent came, and hope was deferred, and the faithful turned their thoughts to penitence and the unfaithful forgot it.

THE COMMITTEES AND ANTICIPATIONS.
 But the great Conductor did not. He secured names for the back of his little violet-lettered programme which were calculated to strike awe to the souls of the most recklessly impetuous who should behold them. The Bank of England might suspend, the Government securities might hopelessly collapse, the Pyramids might topple, but in the bright ledgers of these magnates there was no such word as fail; they were elastic beyond possibility of contraction; they were more solid than the primal rock.

A ball under such auspicious auspices must be a brilliant success one was sure. Hearing that it was a fancy ball, the uninitiated expected to see those managers in full armor of gold plate with diamond-hilted swords. Suffice it to say, they were not, but as Walter observes, they "might have been."

One was led to believe that this affair would be the counterpart of the famous opera balls of Paris, where even royalty under its dominion, is not more royal than the last *soiree* rich from the Provinces, and where the grotesque madness of the hour laughs at all laws of separation, and drives gravity out of window.

THE REALITY—COSTUMES AND MUSIC.

It was not. It was a very quiet, well-bred, richly attired, rather grave assemblage of fashionable people. The costumes were few; the masks not many more. The majority of persons wore evening dress, and looked as unhappy as Americans usually do when they dance.

But the music was delicious. There was space for the dancers, and no surging mass of people making light of each other's toilettes, and invading the sanctities of concealed yet aching corns.

THE DISPLAY IN THE BOXES.

In the boxes was marvellous display of diamonds, and lace, of smiling dowagers, and pretty demoiselles, looking as if they longed to dance, but feared some snare to the feet beneath the glittering surface of a naughty Paris ball.

FEW MASKS AND LITTLE MERRIMENT.

There was none of the rollicking fun of the German mask balls. None of the absurd jokes, and appalling humor of those deep-lunged festivals. None of the breathless, whirling, beautiful dancing.

And the excellent Glendower who called the spirits of French Masques and Morrimont from the vasty deep of fashionable life here will forgive us for whispering that they did not come when he did call for them.

The costumes were not novel, not brilliant, not significant; the masks, as we said, were too few, and the idea of supporting a character where one was assumed, did not, apparently, occur to the disguised.

NAST'S PICTURE GALLERY.

The Picture Gallery of Mr. Thomas Nast, was a collection of 60 caricatures of the celebrities of to-day. All the portraits were charmingly absurd, and most of them were delightfully clever.

No. 38, "A Popular Ward in Brooklyn," was an irresistible likeness of the cheerful Shepherd of Plymouth Church, piping sweetly to a most slippery, and particularly colored cat, labeled C. S. A.

No. 36, "Ninety Days After Date, I Promise," represented the Premier having apparently wrapped the drapery of his couch about him, and lain down to pleasant dreams.